

New York, Dec. 18, 1844.

Mrs. A. G. Chapman;

Dear Friend,

I send you herewith my contribution to the Fair, and feel happy in the belief that it will not only afford you pleasure but aid in some small degree in augmenting the receipts from this most effective moral as well as pecuniary instrumentality. It is not necessary for me to assure you that I feel as a great privation the impracticability of being present at this annual gathering of the true and tried, and of offering my personal services in lightening the burden of their labors and cares. The small offering which I am able to send will at least serve as a manifestation of my unabated attachment to ^{the} good cause, and of my love to the dear friends with whom it has been my pleasure in past years to be intimately associated, and who have given me so many proofs of their affection and confidence; under circumstances ^{too,} which persons of narrower minds, and hearts less pure, would have felt as a justification for far different treatment. It was not in my thought to speak thus when I took up my pen, but ~~as I was~~ the purpose for which I write naturally awakened old associations, and I can never think of your kindness and magnanimity in the circumstances to which I allude without feelings of gratitude which demand expression.

It will afford you pleasure to learn

that the beautiful articles which I enclose were brought
by the hands of a woman in a slave State—Margaret D.
Gibbons, (sister of James S.) Wilmington, Delaware. Meeting her
here in Autumn, and finding her engaged in working a
Bag like one of those now sent, I ventured to ask her
~~if~~ she would contribute ^{her} of ingenuity and taste to aid
the Fair. Though not pretending to be an Abolitionist, in
our sense of the word, she replied affirmatively, and I
gave her \$5.00 to purchase materials, out of which
she has wrought these beautiful articles. I must tell
you that I really feel proud of them. The marks
which you will find on them are mine, and may
not, in your judgment, indicate their true value; if so,
you will of course alter them. At my prices they
amount to \$18.00.

I ask the privilege, for Mrs. Johnson
and myself, of laying these articles on the table of
our friends the Southwicks, they having been associated
with her in labors for previous Fairs. I have written
them on the subject, and they will call for the arti-
cles. I hope this arrangement will meet your appro-
bation.

The autographs of Cassius M. Clay will, I
hope, not be found valueless. He furnished them at my
request, ~~while~~ during his late visit at the North. Of
course informed him of the purpose for which they
were wanted. You will be gratified to learn that he is

to write for The Tribune. If he does not fall into the slough of Third party, he will yet do a great work for Freedom. I saw a private letter from him a few days ago which breathed a noble spirit, and elevated ^{him} greatly in my esteem.

Your 'Prophecy' was ^a most welcome contribution to The Tribune. I send you six copies of the Weekly and one of the Daily, containing it. Let me suggest to you that you might frequently subserve the cause by furnishing for The Tribune articles from your pen. Occasions are constantly occurring which present themes of such universal interest as would readily find admission into our columns. You could do incalculable good by writing, as you will readily believe when I tell you that the Weekly and Daily Tribunes have an aggregate circulation of 45,000 copies—greater probably than ^{that of} any other paper on the continent. Of course you would not ~~write~~ ^{say} all in such a paper that you could in one devoted to Abolition, but you will need no other restraint than your own good judgment and a discreet recollection of the character and position of the medium through which you speak will impose. I say ~~of~~ this without having consulted Mr. Greeley, but with ^{general} a knowledge of his disposition and wishes. As I am now exclusively employed in the Editorial department, it will afford me pleasure to open a channel through which you can speak in behalf of the cause of Freedom.

I must tell you how delighted I was with your Annual Report. Every word of it was an arrow sent with unerring aim to the heart of Slavery and ^{to the consciences of} its abettors and apologists. The perusal of it invigorated my faith, and inspired me with fresh courage for the conflict yet before us.

Allow me to suggest that a Liberty Bell would no doubt be gratefully accepted by Margaret Gibbons, and find

Mrs. Henry Wadsworth Chapman,
39 Summer Street,
Boston.

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W. Johnson

more than one reader in Delaware. If you think it right to send me, I will see that it is forwarded.

Will you remember me most cordially to your sisters and any other friends who may inquire after me; and believe me, my dear Mrs. Chapman,

Yours, truly,

W. Johnson

Ms. A. 9. 2. 20. 127